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4701 WILLARD AVENUE, CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND 20815 656-4068

FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM The Today Show

STATION WRC-TV  
NBC Network

DATE February 8, 1983 7:00 A.M. CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT Interview with Dr. Dabringhaus

JANE PAULEY: The incredible case of Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie has taken a rather ugly turn in our direction. Known as the Butcher of Lyon, Barbie directed the torture and murder of thousands of French citizens during World War II. Well, was he later a paid informer for American intelligence? Did Americans actually aid his escape to South America?

Dr. Erhard Dabringhaus says he worked with Barbie for about six months during 1948. Dr. Dabringhaus is now a professor of German language and literature at Wayne State University. He joins us from WDIV, our NBC affiliate in Detroit.

At the time you were working with this man, did you know who he was or what he'd done?

DR. EHARD DABRINGHAUS: We didn't know the extent of his capability, or culpability in the atrocities. But we -- I knew he was an S.V. member, which was a notorious German intelligence agency.

PAULEY: And you also knew that the French wanted him.

DR. DABRINGHAUS: We learned that during the time that I was with him. Yes.

PAULEY: And you hid him, in effect, from the French at that time?

DR. DABRINGHAUS: Yes. I was told that he was still of some value to us and that I should deny that I know where he is.

PAULEY: What, in fact, was he selling?